

REMARKS

Applicant submits the following remarks in reply to the Office Action dated Nov. 21, 2003.

In the office action, claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement, under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph; and claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Furthermore, the Office Action suggested that the claims would be anticipated by USPN 5,106,094 if the claims were rewritten to remove the new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

Applicant has amended claim 1 to more closely follow the specification. In view of the amendments, it is strongly believed that the written description of the amended claim 1 now complies with the written description requirement, and that the claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention as recited in amended claim 1 is a wood golf club which comprises:

a head having a face on a front, said head defining a toe at one end of the face and a heel at the other end thereof, having an outer shell made of metallic shells, defining a hollow interior, said head also having a rearmost side opposite the face on the front;

a shaft connected to a heel side of the head; and one

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or more reinforcing members provided separately inside said outer shell of the head, each of said reinforcing members being tabular, projecting toward the hollow interior, so formed that it is provided nearly along a cross-sectional area of said hollow interior defined in a toe-to-heel direction, a preset distance away from the face to define a preset space therebetween,

wherein each reinforcing member is frame-shaped, having an opening on a center portion thereof, and makes up 20% or more of the cross-sectional area of the hollow interior in a toe-to-heel direction, and

wherein said reinforcing member is positioned rearwardly of a shaft connecting portion of said head in a range of \pm 20% of a distance extending between said face on the front and said rearmost side of the head, with an intermediate position between the face to the rearmost side of the head being assumed to be a reference position.

Support for the amendment (underlined above) is found in paragraph [0024] and therefore the amendment does not constitute new matter.

By employing the above-described structure, the wood golf club of the present invention can exhibit the following advantageous effects:

As one or more reinforcing members are provided inside the outer shell of the head along a cross-sectional area of the hollow interior in a toe-to-heel direction and protruding toward the hollow interior at a predetermined distance away from the face to define a space therebetween, the deformation of the sole and crown is suppressed while the face is effectively bent when striking a ball, thus elongating traveling distance of the ball.

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Further, as each of the reinforcing members is frame-shaped having an opening in a center portion thereof, wherein each of the reinforcing members makes up 20% or more of the cross-sectional area, the reinforcing members can be lightened and thus the entire head can also be lightened, while preventing deformation of the sole and crown. The lightening of the head in this way makes it possible to enlarge the bulk of the head, and the resultant enlarged bulk of the head leads to an enlarged face area and therefore to an enlarged sweet area.

Furthermore, because the reinforcing member is positioned rearwardly of a shaft-connecting portion of the head in a range of \pm 20% of a distance extending between the face on the front and the rearmost side of the head, with an intermediate position between the face and the rearmost side of the head being assumed to be a reference position, the deformation of the sole and crown can be suppressed in a very effective and reliable manner, despite an extremely simple structure that the reinforcing members is tabular.

The remaining claims are dependent from claim 1 and further limit the scope of claim 1.

SUMMARY OF THE CITED REFERENCE

USPN 5,106,094 (hereinafter, "Desbiolles") discloses a structure such that the inside of a head is divided up by a partition 41 and the face side of the head is filled with a filler material (hardening material).

COMPARISON OF THE INVENTION TO THE CITED REFERENCE

The partition 41 of Desbiolles is not a reinforcing support but only a containment barrier for the filler

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material. Therefore, the effectiveness and working of the partition 41 differ from those of the reinforcing member of the present invention.

Moreover, internally the head of Desbiolles is divided up into two spaces by the partition 41, and the partition 41 seals the space between a face plate and the partition so that the filler material does not leak from the sealed space. The reinforcing member of the present invention, however, is not for forming a sealed space but for reinforcement. In other words, the reinforcing member does not divide the inside of the head, and the inside of the head is instead formed as one hollow member. The reinforcing member is tabular and frame-shaped, with an opening is formed on the center portion thereof. This construction makes it possible to lighten the reinforcing member so as to lighten the head and, further, to suppress the sole and the crown from deforming. Moreover, by reducing the weight of the head, the head can be large, and thus the area of the face and the sweet area can both be enlarged.

The operation and effectiveness of the present invention thus differs substantially from Desbiolles. Therefore, it is strongly believed that the present invention is both novel and non-obvious in view of Desboilles, as described above.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and Remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3 - 7 are pending, and a Notice of Allowance for these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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